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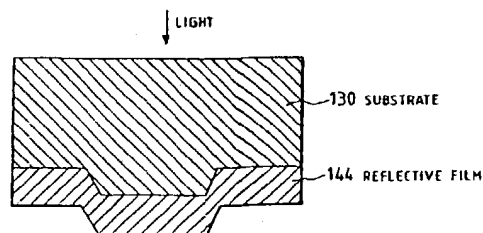
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(54) **Optical ROM type memory disk**

(57) The present invention provides an optical information handling device in which reflectivity of the conventional reproduction-only type is lowered to 60% or less which is equal to the reflectivity of the write-once type and the rewritable type optical disks, whereby the interchangeability of the disk is realized. The information processing device of the invention can be interchangeable with a lower rank information handling device.

Further, the optical disk of the credit size card are also realized.

FIG. 1



Description

The present invention relates to an optical ROM type memory disk as defined in the preamble of claim 1.

Optical disks which are broadly used for storing information of any kind in the present information-oriented society are required to provide a large memory capacity. The said optical disk memories may be classified into a write-once type, a rewritable type and a reproduction-only or ROM type. The present invention is specifically dealing with said ROM type memories.

A ROM type memory as represented by a compact disk records recording information in the form of recess and projection on a substrate with such as stampers such that a large quantity of memory medium of inexpensive cost can be supplied. The said memory disks are suitable as a memory medium to store commercial software such as game software, picture image processing software and word processing software, because they can be supplied at inexpensive cost and in large quantity. Moreover, they keep a high reliability of the recorded information to heat and external magnetic fields.

The memory disks of the write-once type or the rewritable type, on the other hand, employ recording techniques based on pit formation, phase change or magnetization reversal caused by heating recording materials of thin film with laser beam irradiation. The ROM type memory disks, however, include a metallic film of such as aluminium or gold formed on a substrate to a thickness where transmitting light almost disappears, and hitherto the reflectivity is so high as more than 75 %. write-once type and rewritable type memory disks, on the other hand, need large absorptivity to effectively utilize the heat energy of the irradiated laser beam and are made with low reflectivities down to about 15 to 30 %.

Accordingly, it was difficult to use the same optical disk devices for reproduction purposes for optical memory disks of both the write-once and rewritable types and the reproduction only or ROM type in common. The said problem was aggravated when - as often usual in some write-once type and rewritable type optical disks - a ROM part was formed on a portion of the disk through such as pre-pit formation. That ROM part was basically of the same structure as the write-once and rewritable part of the disk for maintaining the reflectivity constant and in view of their production costs, and was constituted into a film including recording materials. The optical characteristics of recording materials in the ROM part of those conventional optical disks changed such as by temperature, external magnetic fields and irradiation by recording beams due to erroneous operation of the related optical disk device, and recorded information got lost. As a consequence reproduction errors were induced due to loss of information and reduction of information quality.

For lap top computers and portable optical disk devices an optical disk medium is required which is thin-

ner than a compact disk or a laser disk. A conventional example of such a thin type and card size optical memory disk is disclosed in JP-A-60 79581 (1985) where a disk type optical memory medium is rotatably received in a case of credit card size for facilitating handling. When emitting a laser beam through a transparent opening portion of the case, the case can serve as a part of a transparent substrate having a thickness of 1.2 mm, and a thin optical disk can be realized. Even with that conventional memory disk compatibility between the ROM type memory and the write-once and rewritable type memories was not realized.

Further, while an optical disk as an exchangeable memory medium has a large memory capacity, its package is large in comparison with such as a floppy-disk and an IC card, such that a thickness reduction is required for a memory for a lap top computer and other portable information processing devices.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an optical ROM type memory disk which can offer compatibility with memories of the write-once type and the rewritable type as well as fulfillment of a demand for thickness reduction of an optical disk memory.

The said object according to the present invention is achieved by an optical ROM type memory disk as defined in claim 1. Further developments of the invention are indicated in the subclaims.

In particular, the present invention provides an optical ROM type memory disk which is characterised in that it has a reflectivity of not more than 60 % and preferably a reflectivity between 45 and 10 %. Preferably, the memory disk comprises a substrate and a reflective film, which film has a reflectivity of at most 60 % and preferably not more than 50 %. In addition, the thickness of the memory disk may be not more than 1 mm.

In a preferred embodiment the memory disk according to the present invention includes at least a transparent substrate and a reflective film which may be a metallic film, a dielectric film or a combination of both. Further, a memory according to the present invention may include at least a metallic substrate and a transparent protective film through which information is optically readable. Alternatively, a memory disk according to the present invention may include at least a non-transparent organic substrate and a transparent protective film through which information is optically readable.

Additionally, the memory disk may be located in a case having a transparent opening, and an anti-reflection coating may be formed on at least one of the surfaces of said transparent opening and a surface of a memory disk at the side of the transparent opening. That case may be of credit card size and may receive the memory disk rotatably.

Moreover, a memory according to the present invention may comprise a substrate having a protuberant structure and at least one reflective film coating the surface of said protuberant structure and having a thickness and a refractive index selected so as to make the reflectivity of the reflective film not more than 60 %. The

reflective film may include at least two films, the thicknesses and refractive indices of each of them being selected so as to make the reflectivity of the reflective film not more than 60 %.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention information is reproduced by emitting light from a light source through a transparent opening of the case and an anti-reflection coating is formed on at least one surface of the surface of the transparent opening at the side of the light source and the disk type optical memory medium and of the surface of the disk type optical memory medium at the side of the transparent opening.

Finally, a guide groove for following a track or wobble pit may be formed on the information recording surface side of the disk type optical memory medium.

A specific example for the present invention can be described as follows. A ROM type memory disk is prepared using a reflective film of a low reflectivity such as Ni-Cr in place of Al and Au as used for the reflective film in a conventional ROM optical disk and inserting, for instance, a dielectric film between a substrate and the reflective film so as to reduce the disk reflectivity through interference and render the reflectivity thereof the same as that of the write-once type and rewritable type optical disk so that compatibility of the disk medium is realized.

Here, the reflectivity of the optical disk is explained. In the reproduction-only type optical disk, information is recorded on the substrate in the form of recesses and projections, and the reflectivity of the recessed portion during reproduction is generally designed to be small. The reflectivity of a part where information is not recorded is the one determined by the film constitution of the reproduction-only type optical disk, and is almost the same reflectivity of the projected portion. In the following, unless indicated otherwise, reflectivity of a disk indicates the above-mentioned reflectivity determined by the film constitution of the optical disk.

Namely, the reflectivity means a spectro-reflectivity measured by irradiating a single wavelength beam having the same wavelength as laser beam which is used as a light source on the incident side of a laser beam constituting a light source for an optical head to the optical disk.

Nextly, to achieve the compatibility of reflectivity among the reproduction-only type, write-once type, and rewritable type optical disks which is the object of the present invention, a reference value of the reflectivity is determined. In comparison with the write-once type optical disk represented by a pit formation type, in the rewritable type optical disk such as phase transition type between crystalline-amorphous, setting of disk reflectivity is much restricted because such employs reversible state change of the recording materials. Therefore, a reference value of reflectivity is determined taking up as an example an optical disk using In-Sb-Te series crystalline-amorphous phase transition type optical recording film which is described in Proceedings of International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE)

(Vol.1078, pp.11-26, (1989)). Fig.2 shows the cross-sectional structure thereof. The disk is constituted of a glass substrate/a SiN interference film (70nm)/an In-Sb-Te recording film (30nm)/a SiN interference film (70nm)/an Au reflection film (100nm).

On this optical disk information is directly overwritten only by modulating the irradiating laser beam power, and unerased remainder ratio at that instance is reduced to less than -40 dB. Consequently, for constructing an optical memory system having compatibility of reflectivity between the reproduction only type, and the write-once type and rewritable type according to the present invention, it is understood that the compatibility is enabled if the reflectivity of the reproduction only type optical disk is selected at about 47%, or about 50% in view of errors. However, the reflectivity is preferable at 10 through 45%, especially at about 15 through 30% in consideration of such as utilization efficiency of photo thermal energy. The reproduction only type optical disk device at this instance may be the one of the conventional type, and it is sufficient to increase gain of an amplifier in reproduction signal line in response to decrease of reproduced signal level which is accompanied by the disk optical reflectivity reduction.

In an optical disk memory system having compatibility between a reproduction-only type, and a write-once type and rewritable type medium according to the present invention, the write-once type optical recording medium uses inorganic series materials using such as Te as the base or organic series materials such as cyanine series and naphthalocyanine series. Further, the rewritable type optical recording medium can use, in addition to the above-mentioned In-Sb-Te, crystalline-amorphous phase transition type recording materials such as Ge-Sb-Te series, In-Se-Te series, In-Sb series, and Sb-Te series, or photo electro magnetic type recording materials such as Tb-Fe-Co series and Gd-Fe-Co series can be used.

Further, with a card having credit card size in which the reproduction only type optical disk is contained and in which reproduction light beam is emitted via a transparent portion on a part of the case, an optical memory medium which is thin and easy to handle is realized. Thereby, a small sized memory having memory capacity more than 30 MB, further that of 50 MB is realized.

The reflectivity of the conventional ROM type optical disk was more than 75% which is 2 through 3 times larger than that of the write-once type and rewritable type optical disks. Therefore, the realization of disk compatibility was difficult, and particularly ROM type devices of low rank could not read information recorded on write-once and rewritable type optical disks.

Contrary thereto, with optical memory disks according to the present invention due to using a reflective film of low reflectivity such as Ni-Cr instead of Al and Au as used in the conventional ROM type optical disks or to reducing the disk reflectivity through optical interference by inserting a dielectric film between a substrate and a reflective film the same value for the reflectivity as with

optical disks of the write-once or rewritable type can be obtained. Thereby, compatibility of disks may be realized even for systems of low rank.

Moreover, by rotatably mounting an optical memory disk of the present invention inside a credit card size case, an optical memory medium may be realized which is thin and easy to handle.

For further explaining the gist of the present invention reference is now made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 and 2 are cross sectional views of film constitutions in ROM type optical memory disks according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 (a) and (b), and Fig. 4 (a) and (b) are graphs showing relations between reflectivity and film constitutions of disks with a metallic film in embodiments of optical designs in a ROM type optical disk suitable for the present invention;

Fig. 5 (a) and Fig. 6 (a) are plan views showing structures of optical disk in cards of embodiments according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 (b) and Fig. 6 (b) are cross-sectional views showing the structures of the optical disk in cards in Fig. 5 (a) and Fig. 6 (a) respectively;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing an example of an information processing device to be used with an optical memory disk according to the present invention;

Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 are partial cross-sectional views for explaining an optical-disk-in-card of the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a cross-sectional view showing one embodiment of a film constitution in the ROM type optical disk suitable for the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a partial cross-sectional view showing one embodiment in which an anti-reflection coat is provided on a protective case of an optical disk in card according to the present invention;

Fig. 12 (a), (b), and (c) are developed views showing a format example of an optical disk in card according to the present invention;

Fig. 13 is an explanatory view on principles of recording, reproducing, and erasing in a phase transition type optical disk,

Fig. 14 is a diagram showing crystallization speed of In-Sb-Te recording medium which is one example of the materials for the phase transition type optical disk;

Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 are cross-sectional views showing multi-layered film constitution examples of the phase transition type optical disk;

Fig. 17 is a developed view showing a constitutional example of an optical disk and an optical head in a conventional optical disk system;

Fig. 18 is a plan view showing another embodiment of an optical disk in card;

Fig. 19 (a) is a plan view showing one embodiment of an optical-disk-in-card using a magnet clamp,

Fig. 19 (b) and (c) are the cross-sectional views of Fig. 19 (a);

Fig. 20-a, Fig. 20-b, and Fig. 20-c are cross-sectional views for explaining in details of the optical-disk-in-card in Fig. 19,

Fig. 21 (a) and (b) are a plan view and cross-sectional view of an example of optical disks which is built-in inside the optical-disk-in-card in Fig. 19,

Fig. 22 (a) is a plan view showing another embodiment with regard to configuration of the optical-disk-in-card;

Fig. 22 (b), (c), and (d) are the cross-sectional views thereof;

Fig. 23 is a plan view showing an example of an optical-disk-in-card with a semiconductor memory which enhances security;

Fig. 24 is a plan view of another embodiment of the optical-disk-in-card of the present invention;

Fig. 25 (a) is a plan view showing an outlook of the optical-disk-in-card in Fig. 35 when the window cover is opened, and

Fig. 25 (b) is a cross-sectional view thereof.

Hereinbelow, embodiments of the present invention are explained with reference to the drawings.

Reflectivity of the reproduction-only type optical disk, in other words, the ROM type optical disk, of the present invention is smaller than about 75%, the reflectivity of the conventional compact disk, and is less than 60%, preferably 10 through 45%, which is necessary for maintaining compatibility of reflectivity with a write-once type and rewritable type optical disk, in particular, more preferably about 15 through 30%.

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 show embodiments of optical disk film constitutions suitable for carrying out the present invention. In the drawings, 130 shows a transparent substrate of such as glass and plastic, 141, an interference film of dielectric, 144, a reflective film of such as metal, respectively. Reproduction light impinges from the side of the transparent substrate 130 like a common optical disk. Fig. 3 shows a result of analysis on the characteristics of these disks by using a computer. Here, multiple interference of light was not taken into account in the calculation, and refractive indices of respective films were estimated based on the measurement result of reflectivity and transmissivity on samples, prepared by vacuum evaporating a film on a glass substrate through a spectro-photometer.

Fig. 3 (a) shows a relationship between thickness of the reflective films and reflectivity of the disks in the case when the reflective film 144 in the film constitution of Fig. 1 is Au, Al, and Ni-Cr respectively. When the film thickness is thin below 50nm, the disk reflectivity increases along with increase of reflective film thickness. When the reflective film thickness becomes thick to more than 100nm, the disk reflectivity becomes almost constant. This constant value varies depending upon reflective film materials, and in the case of Au the value is about 95%, Al about 80%, and Ni-Cr about

58%, respectively. From this result, for reducing the disk reflectivity less than 60%, it is understood that the reflective film thickness be reduced thin less than 50nm, or a Ni-Cr reflective film be used. When other metal materials are used as the reflective film, the film thickness of the reflective film be determined in the same manner a ROM disk having reflectivity, less than 60% is realized.

When an Au film is used for the reflective film, film thickness of about 20nm of the Au film achieves the disk reflectivity of 60%, however, dependence of the disk reflectivity on the film thickness is as long as about 30%/10nm so that attention has to be paid for increasing preparation accuracy such as in film quality and film thickness of the reflective film. In contrast, when a Ni-Cr film is used for the reflective film, with its film thickness less than 40nm, disk reflectivity less than 60% is achieved.

Judging from disk forming facility, the film thickness of metal reflective film is preferably more than 100nm, in this instance, such film constitution is desired in which the disk reflectivity is finely adjusted. Thereupon, Fig.3 shows a relationship between reflectivity and film thickness of an interference film on a disk of which film constitution enables to change the disk reflectivity by making use of light interference, namely, the film constitution using a dielectric interference film as shown in Fig.2. Here, a relationship between reflectivity of the disk and film thickness of the interference film was calculated in case of when reflective films of an Al, and Ni-Cr film having film thickness 100nm, and an interference film of dielectric film having refractive index being 2.0 were used. As the materials to be used here for the dielectric interference such film as ZnS, Si_3N_4 , Al_2O_3 , AlN , and Ta_2O_5 are preferable. These materials have comparatively large refractive indices of about 2 and are easily formed into a film of good quality such as by sputtering method. Refractive indices of such as SiO and SiO_2 which are also dielectric materials is about 1.5, and when a transparent substrate which was conventionally and commonly used is employed, because of almost the same refractive indices of the both, substantially the no reflection at the interface between the transparent substrate and the dielectric interference film appears, and no advantageous optical interference effect is expected such that proper transparent substrate materials be selected.

As seen from Fig.3 (b), the optical interference is induced by adding the dielectric film and the reflectivity of the disk can be decreased. In this instance, the reflectivity of the disk varies depending on the film thickness of the interference film, even the largest rate of variations which the Ni-Cr reflective film exhibits is less than 5%/10nm. This rate of variation is relatively small in comparison with the disk including only the above-mentioned reflective film, and the requirement of film thickness precision is reduced corresponding thereto and the preparation thereof is facilitated. The higher the reflectivity of the reflective film itself is, the larger the

control range of the disk reflectivity with the interference film is, and the reflectivity reduces in the following order of Ni-Cr, Al, and Au, and in the case of Au reflective film substantially no effect of the interference film appears. Here, for example, for realizing a ROM type optical disk having reflectivity of 30%, a Ni-Cr film of film thickness of 100nm and ZnS film of film thickness of 65nm are used. Films of such as Si_3N_4 , Al_2O_3 , AlN , and Ta_2O_5 may be used instead of the ZnS film.

In a ROM type optical disk of the present invention, the disk is constituted by a dielectric reflective film other than the metallic films. Classifying reflecting films in view of the refractive indices, with regard to refractive indices of the metallic film the real number part n thereof is below 1, and the imaginary number part thereof is above about 3. On the other hand, with regard to the refractive index of the transparent dielectric film, the real number part n thereof is about 1 through 3, and the imaginary number part thereof is substantially 0. With regard to the refractive index of non-transparent dielectric film, the real number part n thereof is about 1 through 3, and the imaginary number part thereof is larger than 0. Fig.4 shows calculation results indicating a relationship between respective real number part and imaginary number part in refractive index of the reflective films, and reflectivity of the disk in the case that the film thickness of the reflective film in the film constitution of Fig.1 is 30nm and 100nm. It is assumed that glass or polycarbonate is used for the transparent substrate and its refractive index of 1.5 is used for the calculation. In the case of the reflective film having the film thickness of 30nm as shown in Fig.4 (a), disk reflectivity, for instance, for attaining 30% a transparent dielectric film having refractive index of such as $n=3$ and $k=0$ is used. Because refractive indexes of ordinary dielectric materials are less than 2.5, it is difficult to reduce the disk reflectivity down to 30%. However, when such as a Ta_2O_5 film ($n=2.3$, $k=0$) and a ZnS film ($n=2.4$, $k=0$) are used reflectivity of about 15% is achieved. In the case of reflective film having film thickness of 100nm as shown in Fig.4 (b), the disk reflectivity of 30% is achieved by using the same Ta_2O_5 film and ZnS film. Further, the reflectivity of 30% is also achieved by using a Cr_2O_3 film ($n=2.7$, $k=0.4$). Generally, when a dielectric film is used for a reflective film, a large reflectivity exceeding 40% can not be expected. Therefore, it is desired to increase disk reflectivity as high as possible by using optical interference. In this instance, the conditions in which the disk reflectivity is maximized are that in the equation $2nd=m\lambda$, $m=1, 2, 3, \dots$ be selected, wherein n is refractive index of dielectric film, d is film thickness, λ is wavelength of reproduction light. For instance, in the case that a dielectric film of Si_3N_4 having refractive index $n=2.0$, a light source of semiconductor laser having $\lambda=830\text{nm}$, and order of interference $m=1$ are selected, the reflectivity becomes maximum at $d=208\text{nm}$. In the same manner as explained in Fig.3, in the constitution of transparent substrate/ dielectric film, the disk reflectivity can also be set by changing film thickness of the

dielectric film.

The film constitution of the ROM type disk explained above satisfies the minimum requirements, and in addition to these, a protective film is frequently added to protect the disk. Further, the disk is required to be provided with such as a guide groove for continuous servo, or a wobble pit and a clock pit such as for sample servo, and to be recorded of such as address information in data area, and software information provided for users. These are formed beforehand on the substrate in the form of recesses and protrusions with such as a stamper, the reflectivity of the recessed portions is generally adapted to show small reflectivity during reproduction of the disks. The gist of the present invention is to constitute the film of the ROM type disk so that the reflectivity thereof reduces less than 60%, and such as other films and supporting materials may be added to the extent that such never affect the optical characteristics.

By using the ROM type optical disk of the present invention and accommodating thereof inside the credit card size case, the thin ROM type optical disk memory medium with handling facility and an optical memory system using the same are constituted. Hereinbelow, this new optical memory system is explained.

Fig.5 (a) and (b) show an embodiment of an optical memory medium accommodated in a transparent protective case (hereinbelow called "optical-disk-in-card") which is suitable for realizing an optical memory system of the present invention. As shown in the drawings, in an optical-disk-in-card 100 according to the present embodiment, an optical disk 140 is accommodated in card size protective cases 120 and 121. Here, in connection with the optical disk 140, at least a light beam impinging part 152 of the protective case is constituted by a transparent plate.

In the conventional optical disk device, when impinging the light, a shutter of the protective case was opened, and the light impinged directly to the optical disk. Therefore, because dust and rubbish entered through the shutter for incidence light, for that countermeasure a transparent substrate having a thickness of 1.2 mm had to be used as the substrate.

Contrary, in the optical disk memory of the above-mentioned embodiment, because the light impinging part 152 is covered with the transparent protective plate 120, dust and rubbish do not directly stick to the optical disk, and therefore the thickness of the substrate which supports the optical disk medium need not to be 1.2 mm. Assuming the thickness of the case is about 0.2 mm, the thickness of the substrate can be reduced below 1 mm.

Further, in the optical disk memory of the present invention, the optical disk 140 is not fixed in the protective case 120 and is secured freely rotatable.

Because the optical-disk-in-card of the present invention is small sized, light weight and thin, and the handling thereof is easy, such is suitable as a common memory medium in the systems such as a desk top type

and lap top type personal computer, a work station, a word processor, a facsimile machine, a copy machine, a television game machine, a telephone, an electronic still camera, a video camera, a portable music reproduction machine, an electronic pocketable system notebook, an electric calculator, and a measurement instrument. Through the employment of compatible type optical disk devices for the respective devices, the optical disk in card can be commonly used as their memory medium.

The compatible optical disk devices can also be built-in in every device. In this case, since the configuration of the respective devices differ each other, it is desired that the built in reproduction devices of the optical-disk-in-card have a larger freedom for their layout. An embodiment satisfying the requirement is explained below. Fig.6 (a) and (b) show an embodiment wherein the optical impinging part 152 of the optical-disk-in-card covers the entire surface of the optical disk 140. Consequently, an optical head can access to the optical disk from any positions on the circumferential direction thereof. Namely, degree of freedom for the layout of the reproduction device increases, and the reproduction device of the optical-disk-in-card can be built-in in variety of devices.

Fig.7 shows an embodiment of an information processing device having a specific constitution which uses the optical-disk-in-card shown in Fig.1. The information processing device of the present invention is composed of the optical-disk-in-card 100, an optical disk drive 200, a processor 400, an input means 500, and an output means 600. The optical-disk-in-card 100 is composed of the optical disk 140 and the protective case 120, and is detachably mounted to the optical disk drive 200. Further, the optical disk drive 200 is composed of an optical head 210, a motor 240 for driving the optical disk 140, and a drive circuit 260 for controlling the optical head 210 and the motor 240. The drive circuit 260 controls rotational speed of the motor 240 by a command from the processor 400, and as well performs demodulation function of reproduced data. The processor 400 executes calculation processing or reproduction of the information from the optical disk 140 in response to commands from the input means 500, and as well outputs recorded contents of the optical disk 140 or calculation results through the output means 600 when required.

Fig.8 and Fig.9 are for explaining the usage of the optical-disk-in-card which is used in the present invention, by which, a thin optical disk is enabled. The present invention is composed of a substrate 130 for support a recording medium 148, the protective cases 120 and 121 for protecting thereof, the motor 240 for rotating the disk, and the optical head 210. The optical head 210 may use a conventional optical system as described in Nikki Electronics of 21. Nov. 1983 on pp.199-213. Further, the optical disk is secured to a rotational axle 241 and rotated therearound, and is held by a disk holder 242 for stable rotation. Further, because the protective case 121 does not constitute the

light impinging part, such that, may be either transparent or non-transparent.

With these constitutions, the reproduction from the optical disk is realized as follows. Namely, power of the semiconductor laser is controlled to be at about 1 mW on the information recording surface, and by continuously irradiating such laser beam, the information recorded in the optical disk is reproduced as signals of reflectivity. By demodulating the signals with the drive circuit 260, necessary information can be read.

Here, a characterized point of the present invention is that the laser beam is irradiated to a recording medium 145 through the transparent protective case 120. Namely, according to the present invention, sticking of dust in the air such as on the substrate 130 and the recording medium 148 is prevented, and the total thickness of the plate thickness d_2 of the transparent protective case 120 and the plate thickness d_1 of the substrate 130 is reduced less than about 1.2 mm. For example, when d_2 of 0.2 mm is selected, d_1 can be reduced less than about 1.0 mm, and the substrate thickness of 1.2 mm which was conventionally understood the minimum thickness is further reduced to obtain a thinner substrate. This produces two effects as follows. Namely, these are miniaturization of the drive device 200 and decrease of electric power consumption. When the substrate 130 becomes thin, the rotating inertia of the disk 140 is reduced, and output of the motor 240 can be reduced, therefore miniaturization and light weight of the motor 240 is achieved. Further, when the total of the plate thickness d_2 of the transparent protective case 120 and the plate thickness d_1 of the substrate 130 becomes thin, the focal distance of an objective lens for the optical head 210 becomes short to reduce the diameter of the objective lens and the beam diameter therethrough. At the same time, because all of the optical elements in the optical heads are miniaturized, miniaturization and light weight of the optical head 210 is achieved. Namely, the optical disk drive device is miniaturized and light-weighted as a whole, and the reduction of the electric power consumption is achieved.

Fig.9 shows an embodiment in the case where the light impinges from the side of the recording medium 148. In the case, a non-penetrable material can be used for the substrate 130. For the substrate materials, in addition to the conventional glass and transparent plastics, metals such as stainless steel, and non-transparent plastics such as polystyrene are used. When a metallic substrate such as stainless steel is used, in addition to its large thermal conductivity and high heat resistance in comparison with the transparent plastics, its mechanical strength increases, so that a warp of the substrate caused during formation of such as the reflective film by vacuum processing such as sputtering is decreased. Non-transparent plastics such as polystyrene are used for a substrate of a magnetic floppy-disk, when such are used for the substrate, inexpensive optical disks can be supplied.

Fig.10 shows a film constitution of an optical disk

suitable for the embodiment in Fig.9. The optical disk is composed of a substrate 130, a reflective film 141, an interference film 144, and a transparent protective film 145. The light impinges from the side of the protective film 145, therefore, the feature of the present embodiment is that the constitutional relationship between the reflective film 141 and the interference film 144 is inverted from that of the embodiment in Fig.2. The transparent protective film 145 is effective against dust like the transparent substrate of the conventional optical disk, and the thickness of the protective film is required to be at least 10 μm in case that the diameter of dust which sticks to the optical disk is about 1 μm . For the materials of the protective film 145 transparent dielectric materials having refractive index less than about 1.5 such as UV resin and SiO_2 film are suitable.

Fig.11 shows a constitution of an optical disk in card of the present invention suitable for increasing utilization efficiency of light. The light from the semiconductor laser light source in the optical head is, as shown in the drawing, converged on an optical recording medium 148 by an objective lens 219, but a part thereof is reflected on the surface of a protective case 120 and a substrate 130 and does not reach to the optical recording medium 148. This reflectivity is about 3 through 4 % per one surface. Therefore, by applying anti-reflective coats (AR coat) 123 and 124, the reflection by the protective case 120 is reduced to increase light utilization efficiency of the optical system. The refractive index of the anti-reflective coat is \sqrt{n} when the refractive index of the protective case is n , the film thickness thereof is $m\lambda/4n$ ($m=1, 3, 5, \dots$) and the wavelength of the light source is λ . For example, when the protective case is made of a transparent plastic having a refractive index of about 1.5, MgF_2 (the refractive index is 1.38) which is same as common optical glasses can be used for the material of the anti-reflective coat.

Fig.12 shows an embodiment of a disk format suitable for recording code data in the ROM type optical disk of the present invention. Here, based on the format of a sampled servo disk 5.25 in. and 1800 rpm satisfying ISO standard, the format for the optical disk in card is determined. The diameter of the optical disk in the drawing is determined to be 48 mm for accommodating within a credit card. The data structure is 16 sectors/truck, 43 segments/sector, and 18 bytes/segment. The user area is 512 bytes per sector, and the servo area is 2 bytes per segment. When the data area of the disk is determined to be 30 through 46 mm ϕ and the truck pitch is 1.5 μm , number of the trucks is about 5300, the memory capacity on one side is 43 megabytes, the rotational speed of the disk is 3600 rpm, and the data transfer rate is 0.6 megabytes/sec. The modulation method is 4-15 modulation, and truck and sector address are recorded in the header at the top of the sector. The error correction code (ECC) is 4-2 format, and the code calculation method is twice repeat of C1-C2. In addition to the above, a disk format which is a combination of the continuous servo method and 2-7 modulation

method is widely used, and such can be used for the optical-disk-in-card of the present invention.

Nextly, an embodiment of a write-once type and a rewritable type optical disks is shown which is suitable for realizing an optical memory system of the present invention having a disk compatibility between reproduction only type, and write-once type and rewritable type disks. In an optical disk memory system having compatibility between the reproduction only type, and write-once type and rewritable, type media, for the write-once type optical recording medium, inorganic materials containing such as Te as their base or organic materials such as cyanin series and naphthalo-cyanin series can be used. Further, for the rewritable type optical recording medium, crystalline-amorphous phase transition type recording materials such as Ge-Sb-Te series, In-Se-Tl series, In-Sb-Te series, and Sb-Te series, or photo-electro-magnetic type recording materials such as Tb-Fe-Co series, and Gd-Fe-Co series can be used. Namely, any media capable of reproducing, recording, or erasing information by laser light can be used for the media of the present invention.

Here, an example is explained wherein recording, erasing, and reproducing are carried out by making use of rewritable type phase transition optical disk. Fig.13 shows a principle of recording, erasing, and reproducing in the phase transition optical disk. As shown in the drawing, the recording is realized by irradiating the recording medium with a relatively high power laser beam to melt the recording film, and thereafter suddenly cooling the recording medium to quench into amorphous-state. On the other hand, the erasing is realized by irradiating the recording film with a relatively low power laser beam, and by crystallizing the recording film from the amorphous-state. Further, the reproducing is realized by irradiating the recording medium with a continuous beam having a further lower power, and information is reproduced based on the reflectivity difference between the amorphous-state and the crystalline-state.

For the recording film, any phase transition type media can be used such as a recording film of In-Sb-Te series as described in Proceedings of International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE) (Vol.1078, pp.11-26, (1989)), or an overwritable recording film as described in the same paper on pp.27-34.

Fig.14 shows the crystallizing speed of In-Sb-Te series materials. In the case of this recording film, the crystallizing speed varies from 50 ns to 500 ns depending upon the composition of the materials. Although the crystallizing speed to be employed somewhat changes depending upon the linear velocity v (m/s) of the optical disk and the film structure of the optical disk medium, it is preferable to employ recording films having a range of crystallizing speed from about 500 to 1500/ v (ns). Further, Fig.15 shows a film structure suitable for use in the optical medium in Fig.8. The optical disk medium is composed of a substrate 130 with light transparency, a first optical interference film 141, a recording film 142, a

second optical interference film 143, a reflective film 144, and a protective film 145. As such, in the optical disk medium the light is impinged from the substrate side.

On the other side, Fig.16 shows a film structure suitable for use in the optical disk medium in Fig.11. In this case, since the laser beam is impinged from the protective film side, the feature of this embodiment is that the order from a first optical interference film 141 to a reflective film 144 is inverted. Herein, the interference film performs functions of enhancing contrast through interference of light and of a control film of heat conductivity.

In all of the optical disks explained in connection with the above embodiments, since information is recorded in terms of reflectivity, the compatibility of the optical disk devices is maintained comparatively easily through standardization of reflectivity. In the present invention, other than these, a photo-electro-magnetic rewritable type optical disk can be used. However, in this case, the manner of information recording differs from the above, in that the information is recorded on the disk in terms of direction of magnetic domain which should be kept in mind.

Fig.17 is an example of an optical system in an optical head of a conventional optical disk device, which can be used for the purpose of the present invention. This optical system is disclosed in Nikkei Electronics of 21. Nov. 1983 on pp.189-213. As shown in the drawing, the optical disk is composed of a substrate 130 and a recording film 142, and a track guide groove with a pitch of 1.6 μm is formed on the substrate 130.

On the other hand, the optical head is composed of a semiconductor laser 211, a collimation lens 212 for preparing parallel rays, a beam splitter 214, a galvano mirror 218 for converting optical path, a objective lens 219 for focusing the light onto recording film 142, a converging lens 220 for restricting the light from the beam splitter 214 to an optical sensor system, a half mirror 222 for separating the light to a signal detecting system for tracking and to a focusing signal detecting system, a cylindrical lens 223 for detecting a focusing signal, an edge prism 224, and sensors 221a and 221b for detecting focusing and tracking errors.

In the optical system thus constituted, the light emitted from the semiconductor laser 211 is reflected at the beam splitter 214, and is converged on the recording film 142 of the optical disk through the objective lens 219. Further, the light reflected by the disk passes through the beam splitter 214, and is measured by the sensor 221a as a focusing error signal. When there is an error in connection with the focal point, the signal is fed-back to an actuator not shown for driving the objective lens 219, to move the position of the objective lens 219 to a position where the focal point matches. Further, the sensor 221b detects tracking error signals, which causes the galvano mirror 218 to rotate and to track along the guide groove. Under such condition, the optical head performs recording and reproducing signals

while performing the focusing control and the tracking control.

Fig.18 shows another embodiment of an optical-disk-in-card 100 for realizing the present invention. Although the basic constitution is the same as that shown in Fig.5, and the light incidence part is covered by a transparent protective case, a feature of the embodiment in Fig.18 is that a protective cover 160 is further provided. Since the optical-disk-in-card 100 of the present invention is freely carried, a card 120 is likely scratched. There is no problem when the card is scratched at the portion other than the light incidence part, however, when the light incident part is scratched exchange of the card case is sometimes necessitated. An object of the present invention is to decrease the number of exchange times of the card case. Namely, by providing the protective cover 160 on the card case 120, scratches on the light incidence part are protected and when the optical-disk-in-card is inserted in an optical disk drive 200 the protective cover 160 is adapted to open and permit incidence of light freely.

Fig.19 (a), (b), and (c) show another embodiment of the optical-disk-in card 100. Fig.19 shows an outlook of of the card sized optical disk with a transparent protective plate 120 and a protective plate 121. The film thickness of the protective plates 120 and 121 is from about 0.5 to 1.2 mm, and an optical disk 140 (not shown) is built-in in a manner sandwiched between the protective plates 120 and 121. Further, 170 is a magnet clamp for fixing the optical disk 140 to a rotatable shaft to rotate the optical disk therewith. Fig.20-a shows A-A' cross-sectional structural view of this optical disk. The optical disk 140 is fixed by the magnet clamp 170, and is spaced from the protective plates 120 and 121. Further, Fig.20-b shows more details of a circle B part, and Fig.20-c shows more details of a circle C part, in Fig.20-a respectively. When the optical disk is rotating, the optical disk 140 and the substrate 130 are in floating condition from the protective plates 120 and 121.

Fig.21 (a) and (b) show an example of an optical disk installed in the optical-disk-in-card 100. A feature of this example is that there is provided a magnet clamp 170 located at the central part for fixing the disk to the rotational shaft of the motor.

Fig.22 (a), (b), (c), and (d) show another embodiment with regard to a configuration of the card. In the embodiments such as in Fig.5 and Fig.6, although the cases wherein the card configuration is equivalent to that of the credit card were explained, any configuration will do when the size of the card enables to built-in the optical disk therein. Fig.22 shows an example of an almost square shaped card. Further, in the present invention, an example of an optical disk having size of about 50 mm was shown, the size can be changed when required. Namely, the present invention is applicable to optical disks of any sizes such as 12 in., 8 in., 5.25 in., 5 in., and 3.5 in., the development of which has been continuing.

Fig.23 shows an application example of the optical-

disk-in-card 100 in which security for the memory is requested. The optical disk 140 is characterized by its large capacity, however by using a microscope with a large magnification recorded data pattern can be examined. By utilizing such as random number code, not only the security is obtained, but also a higher security becomes available by mounting a semiconductor memory on the card. This case is achieved by providing semiconductor area "A" as shown in Fig.23. When such higher security is achieved, the optical-disk-in-card 100 can realize such as a cash card and a portable data base on the information which requires confidentiality such as, medical data of individuals. The case is realized by the hardware constitution shown in Fig.7.

Fig.24 shows another embodiment of the optical-disk-in-card 100 suitable for realizing the present invention. As shown in the drawing, in the present optical-disk-in-card 100, an optical disk medium 140 is accommodated inside card size protective cases 120 and 121. Further, in the protective case, a window 150 for the light incidence is provided, and usually the optical disk is covered by a cover 160. Herein, when the optical-disk-in-card 100 is set in a drive 200, a shutter 160 of the protective case is opened, the light is impinged directly to the substrate for the optical disk, and as well, in the case of the optical disk, a magnetic field generating means is adapted to be used by locating close to the optical disk. Fig.25 is an outlook of the optical-disk-in-card 100 when the window cover 160 is opened, and when the window cover 160 is opened, an optical disk 140 is exposed and an optical head accesses directly to the optical disk.

Claims

1. An optical ROM type memory disk (140), characterised in that it has a disk reflectivity of not more than 60 %.
2. An optical ROM type memory disk, particularly according to claim 1, characterised in that a disk type optical memory medium (130, 140-148) for optically recording information is rotatably received in a card (120, 121) of credit card size.
3. A memory disk according to claim 1 or 2, comprising a substrate (130) and a reflective film (144), characterised in that said reflective film (144) has a reflectivity of at most 60 % and preferably not more than 50 %.
4. A memory disk according to claim 3, characterised in that said substrate (130) is transparent and said reflective film (144) is a metallic film, a dielectric film or a combination of both.

5. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 4, characterised in
that its thickness is not more than 1 mm.
6. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in
that it includes at least a metallic substrate (130) and a transparent protective film (145) through which information is optically readable.
7. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in
that it includes at least a non-transparent organic substrate (130) and a transparent protective film (145) through which information is optically readable.
8. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 7, characterised in
that it is located in a case (120, 121) having a transparent opening and
that an anti-reflection coating is formed on at least one of the surfaces of said transparent opening and a surface of a memory disk at the side of said transparent opening.
9. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 8, characterised in
that it comprises a substrate having a protuberant structure and at least one reflective film (141, 144) coating the surface of said protuberant structure whose thickness and refractive index are selected so as to make the reflectivity of said reflective film not more than 60 %.
10. A memory disk according to claim 9, characterised in
that said reflective film includes at least two films (141, 144), the thicknesses and refractive indices of each of them being selected so as to make the reflectivity of the reflective film not more than 60 %.
11. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 10, characterised in
that information is reproduced by emitting light from a light source through a transparent opening (150) of said card (120, 121) and
that an anti-reflection coating is formed on at least one surface of the surface of said transparent opening (150) at the side of said light source and said disk type optical memory medium and of the surface of said disk type optical memory medium at the side of said transparent opening.
12. A memory disk according to one of the claims 1 to 11, characterised in
that a guide groove (162) for following a track or a wobble pit is formed on the information record-

ing surface side of said disk type optical memory medium (130, 140-148).

FIG. 1

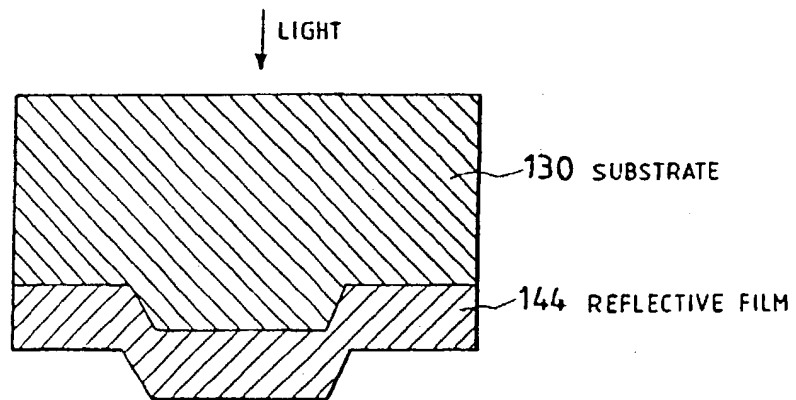


FIG. 2

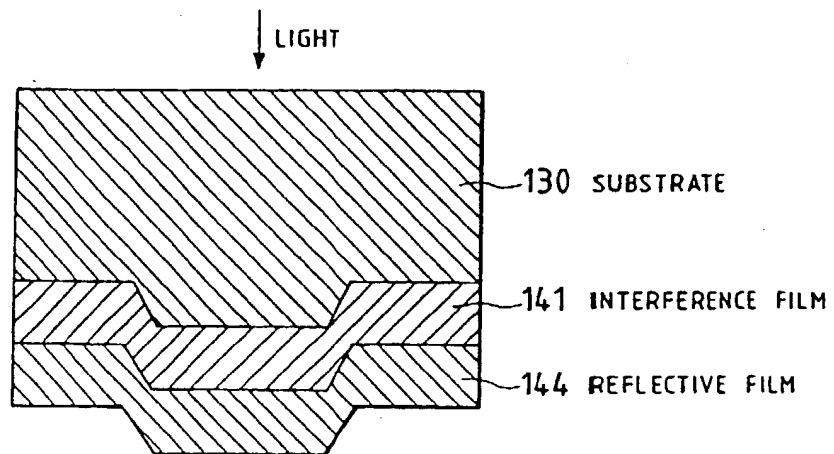


FIG. 3(a)

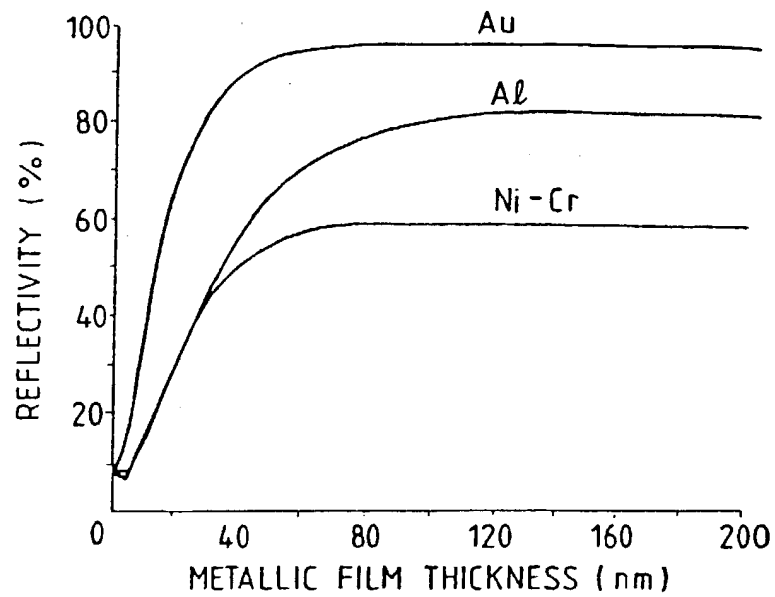


FIG. 3(b)

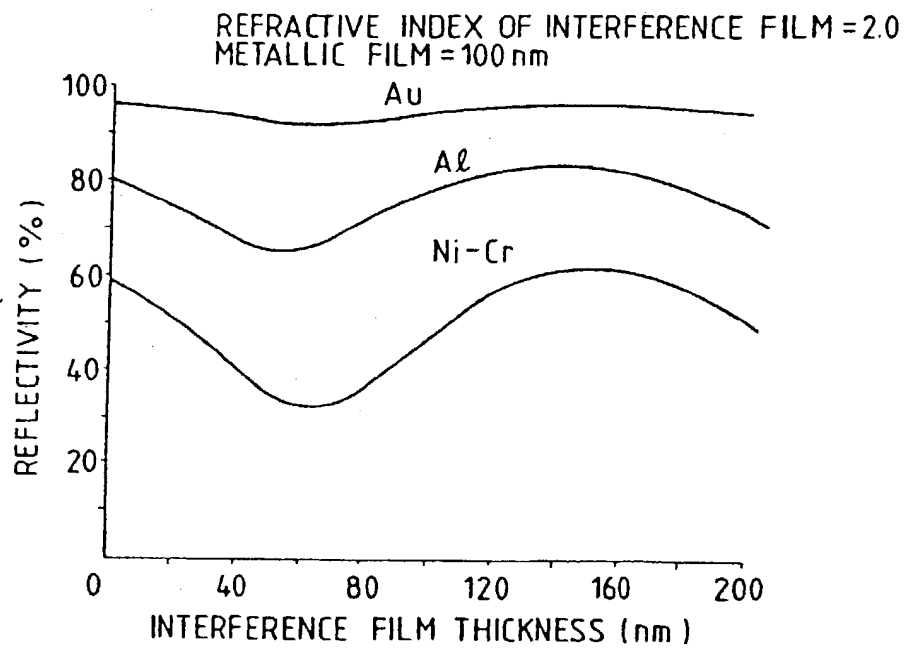


FIG. 4 (a)

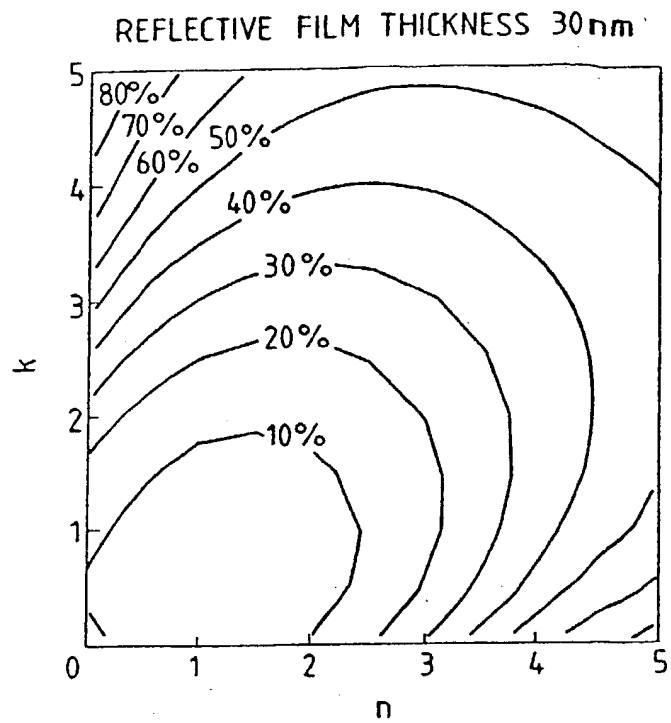


FIG. 4 (b)

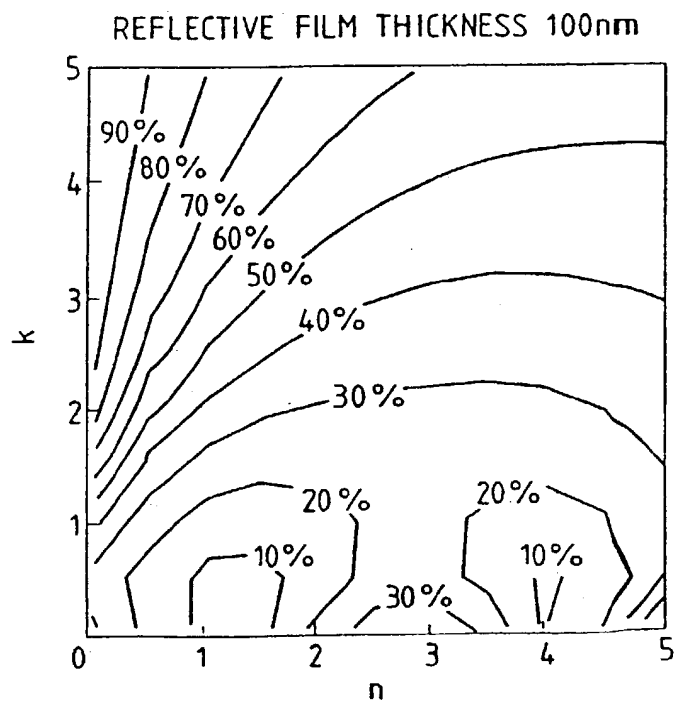


FIG. 5(a)

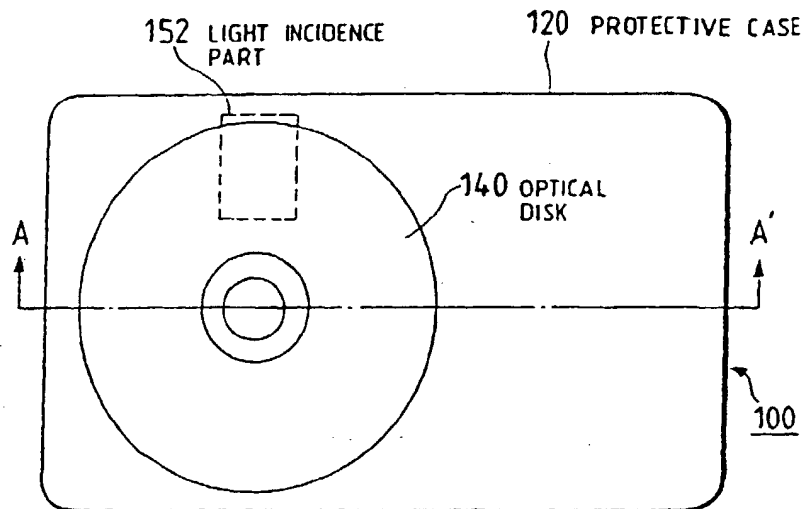


FIG. 5(b)

CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW OF A-A'

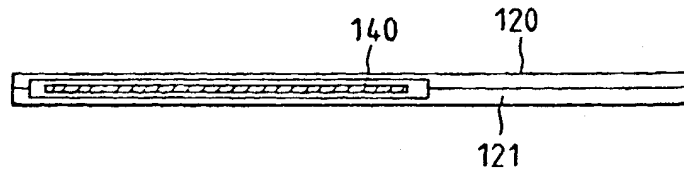


FIG. 6(a)

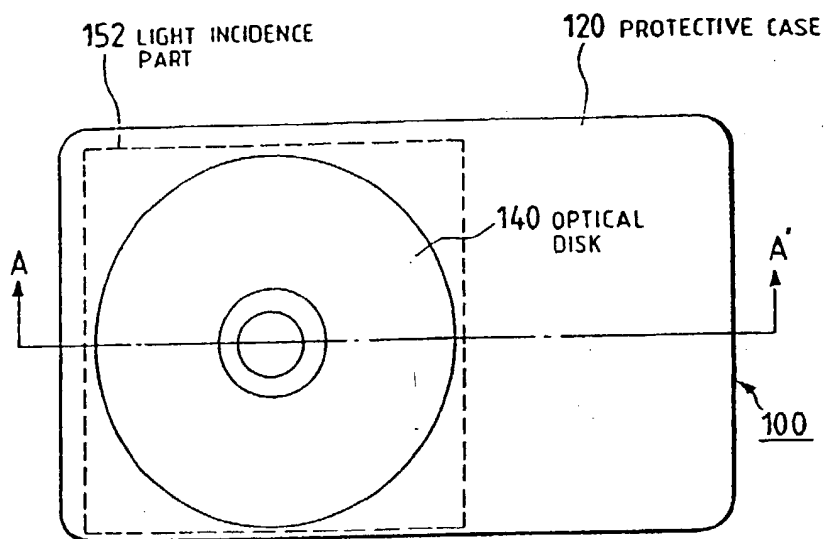


FIG. 6(b)

CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW OF A-A'

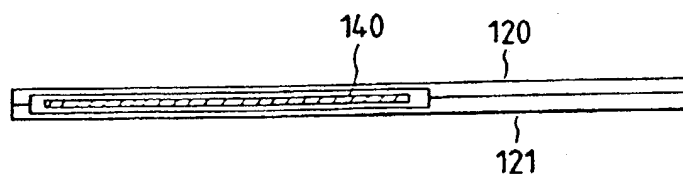


FIG. 7

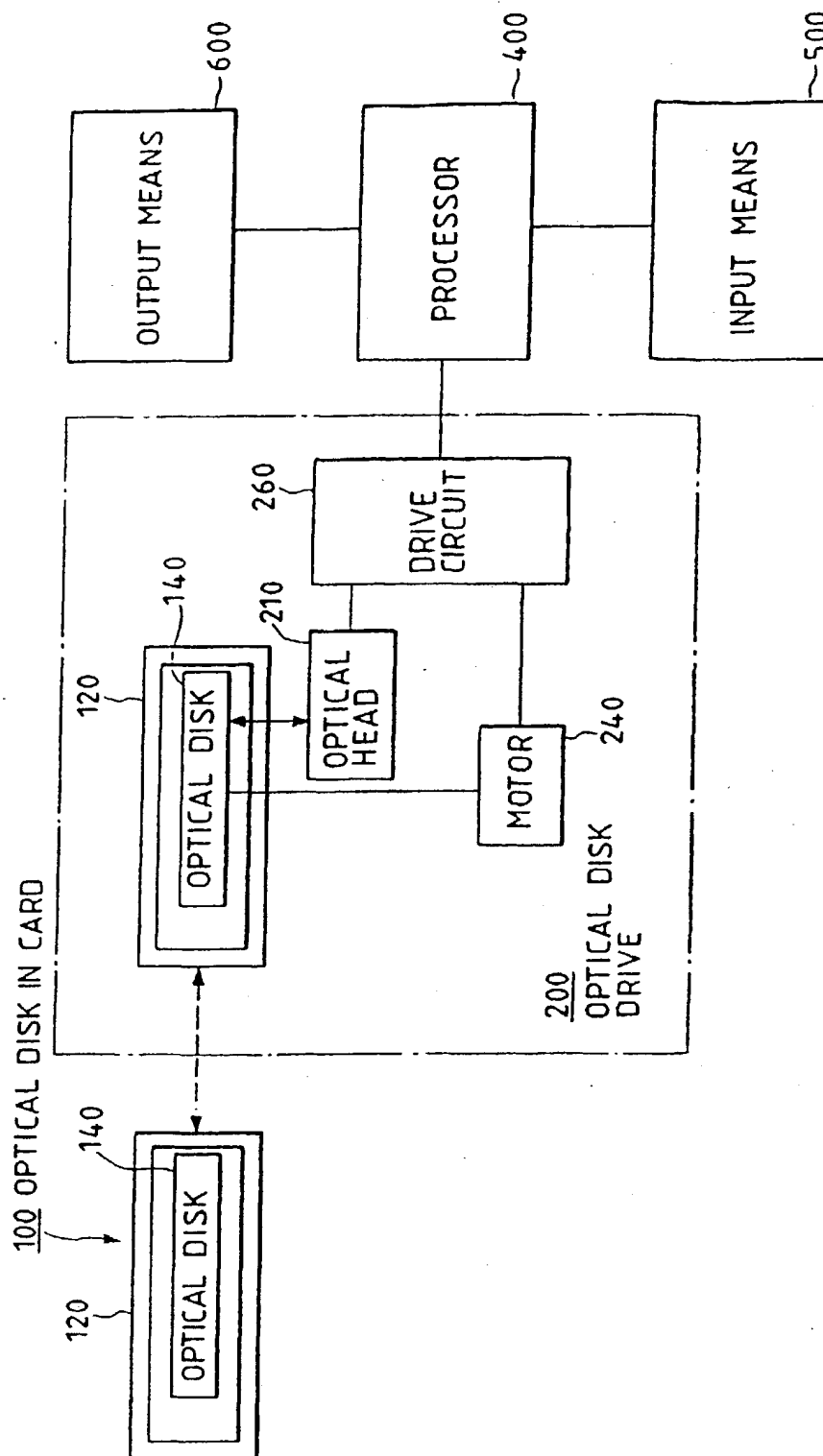


FIG. 8

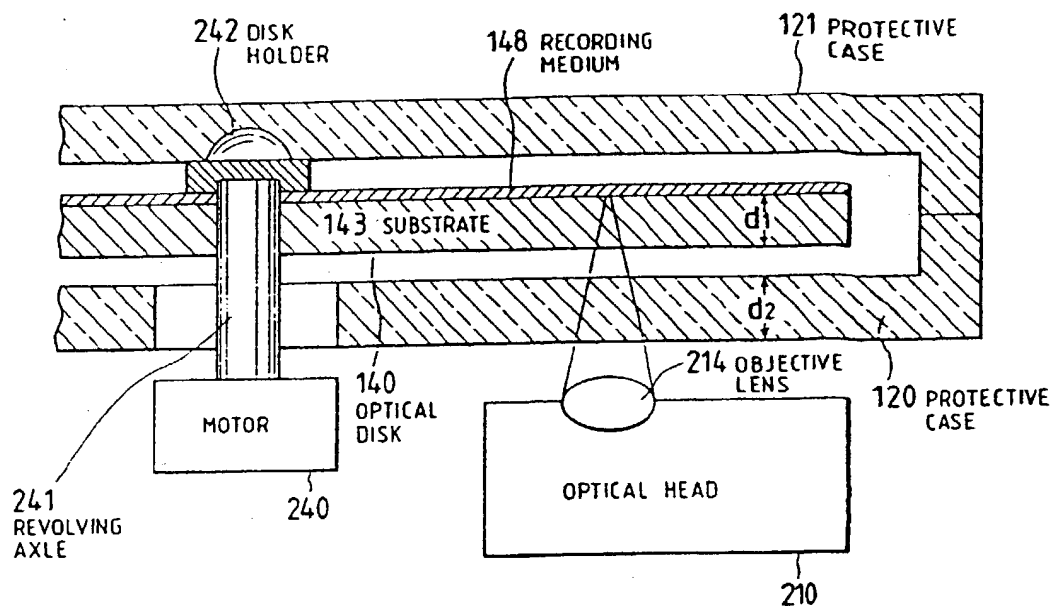


FIG. 9

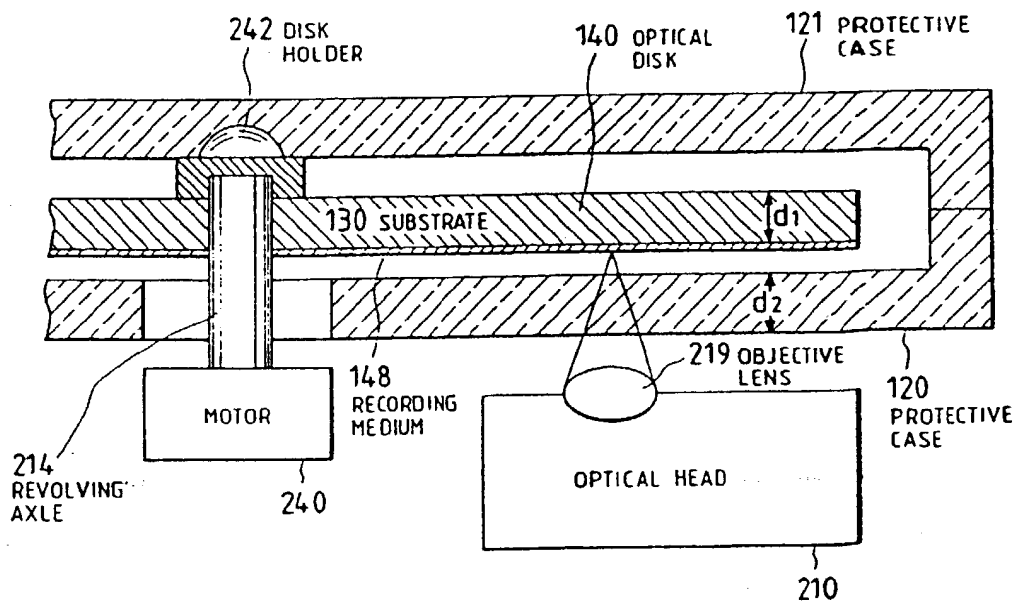


FIG. 10

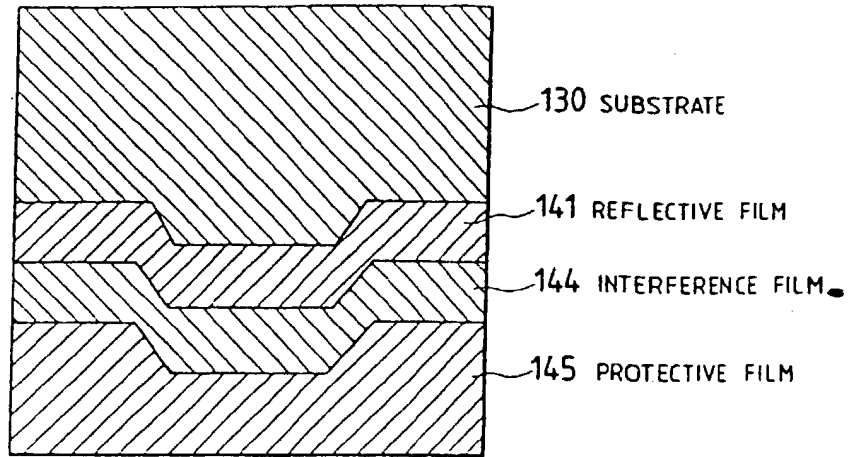


FIG. 11

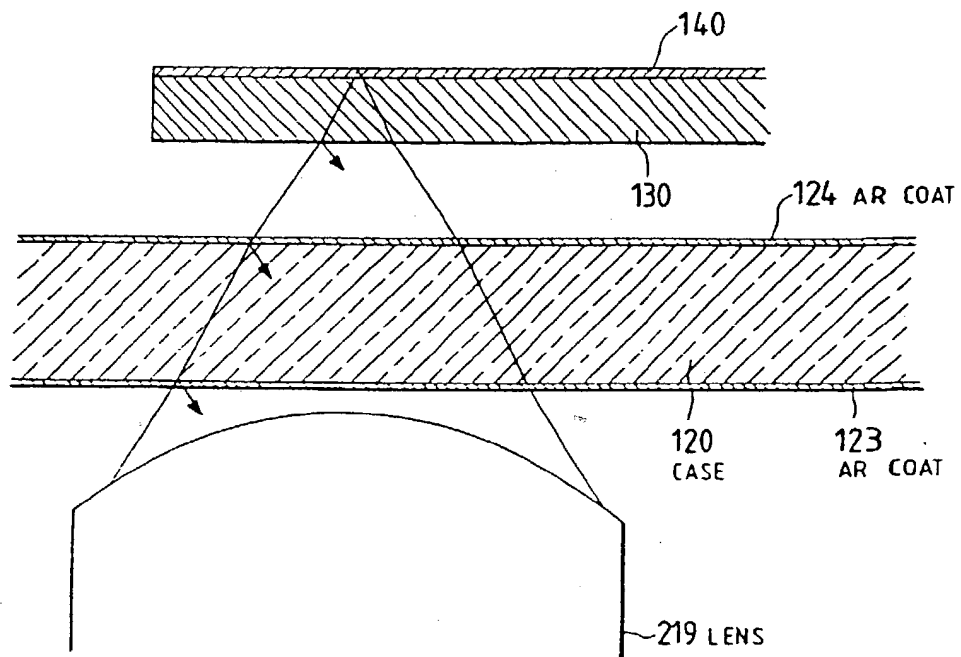


FIG. 13

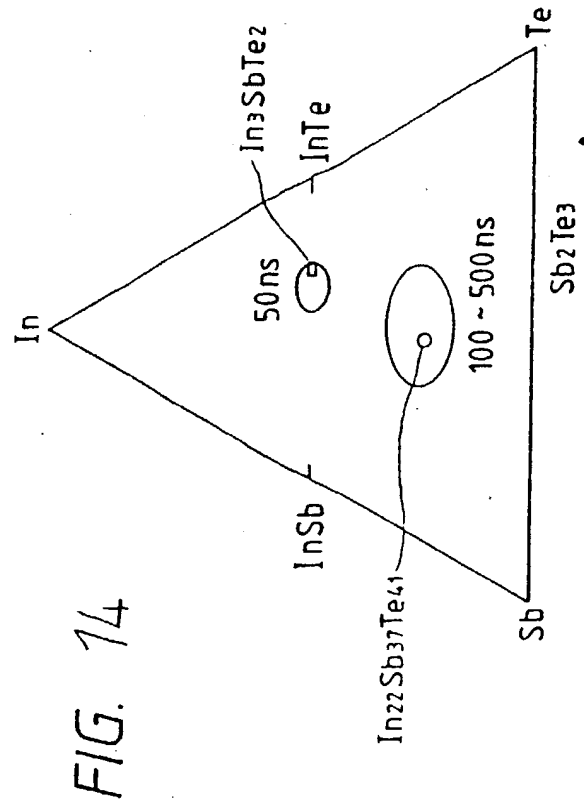
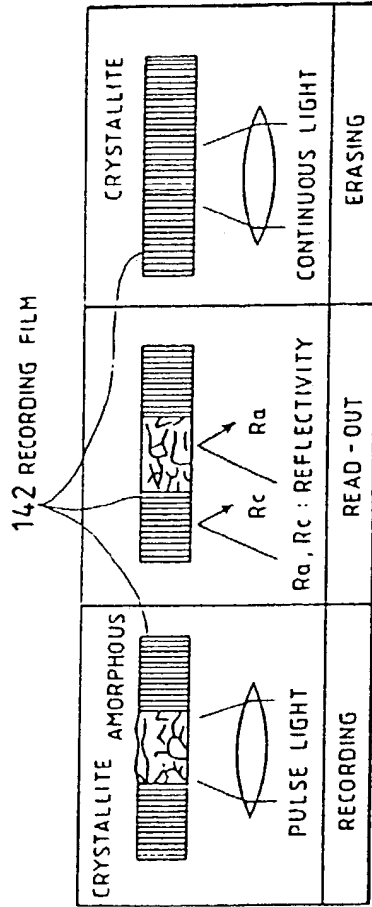


FIG. 15

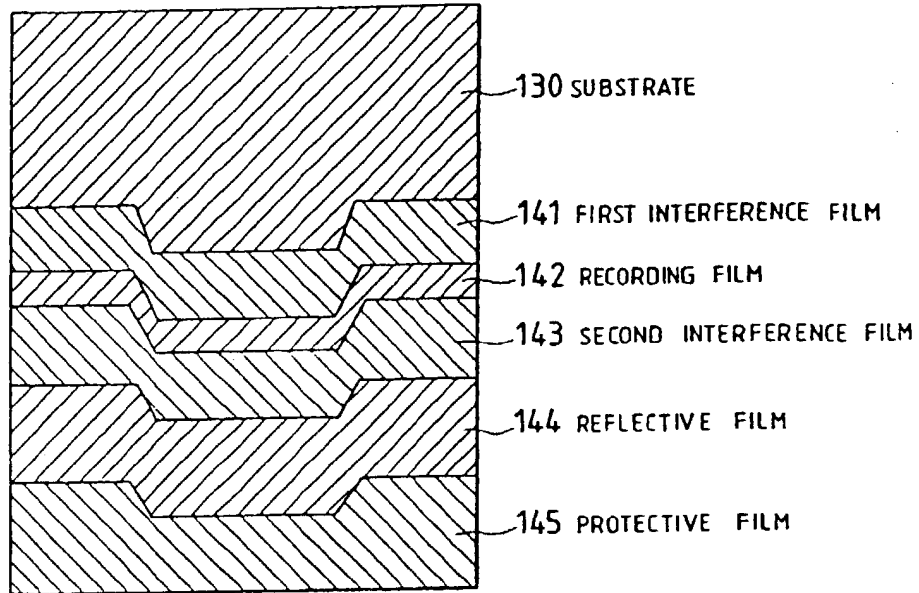


FIG. 16

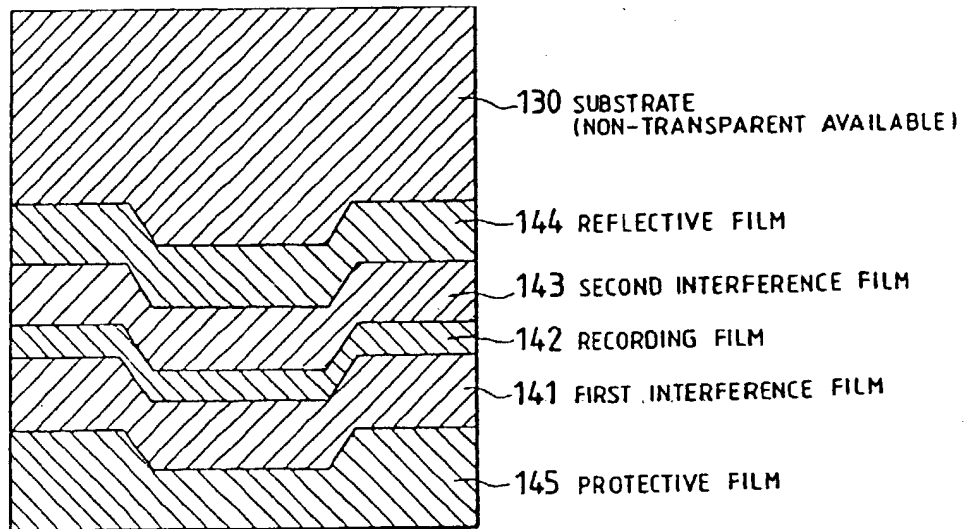


FIG. 17

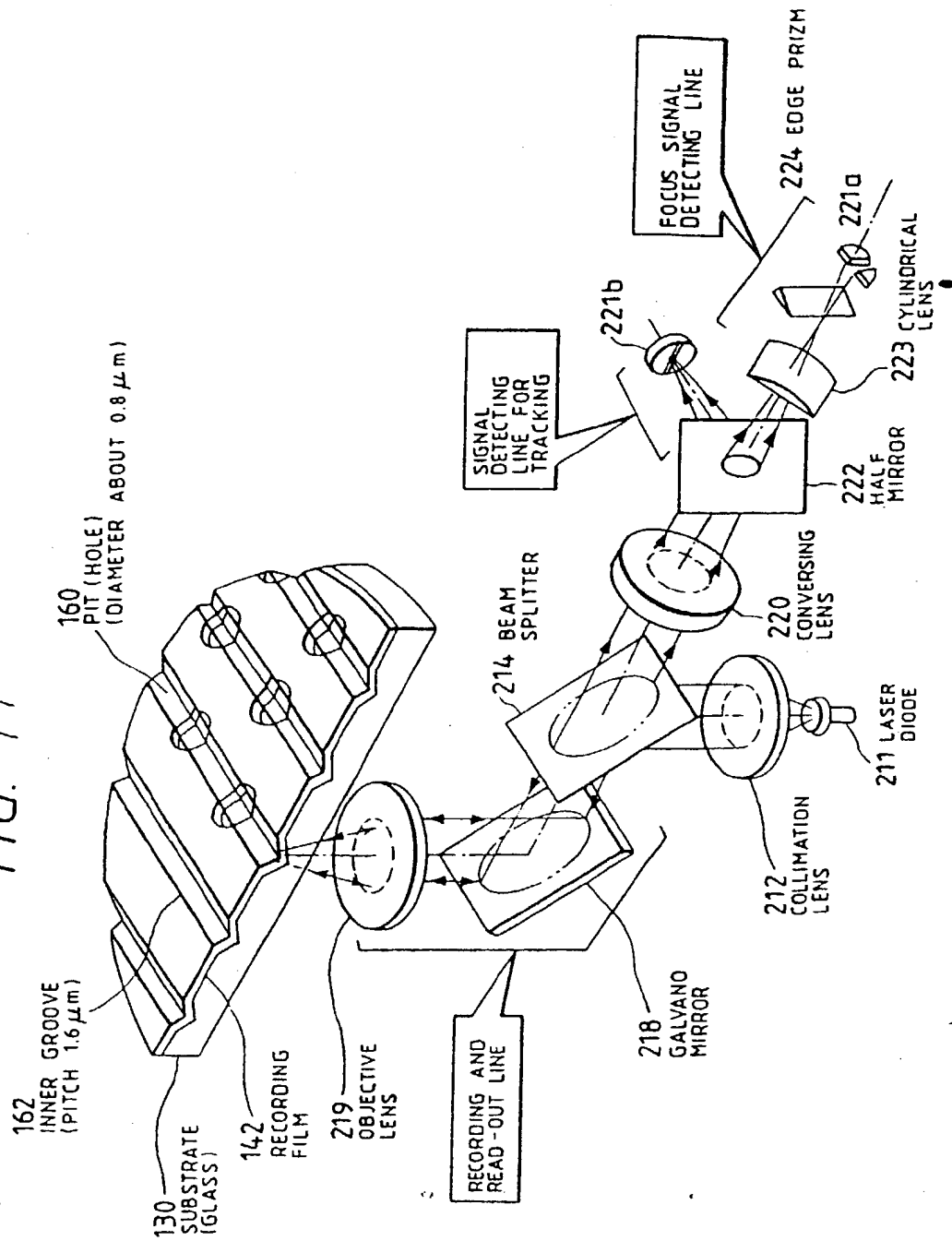


FIG. 18

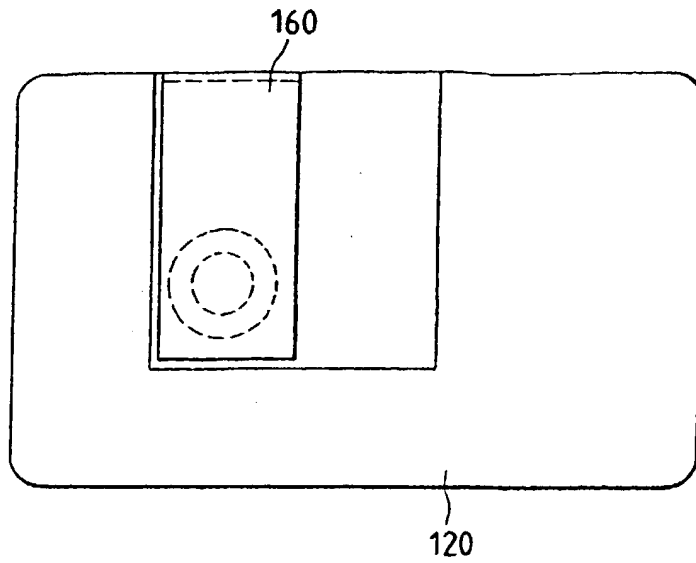


FIG. 19 (b)

FIG. 19 (a)

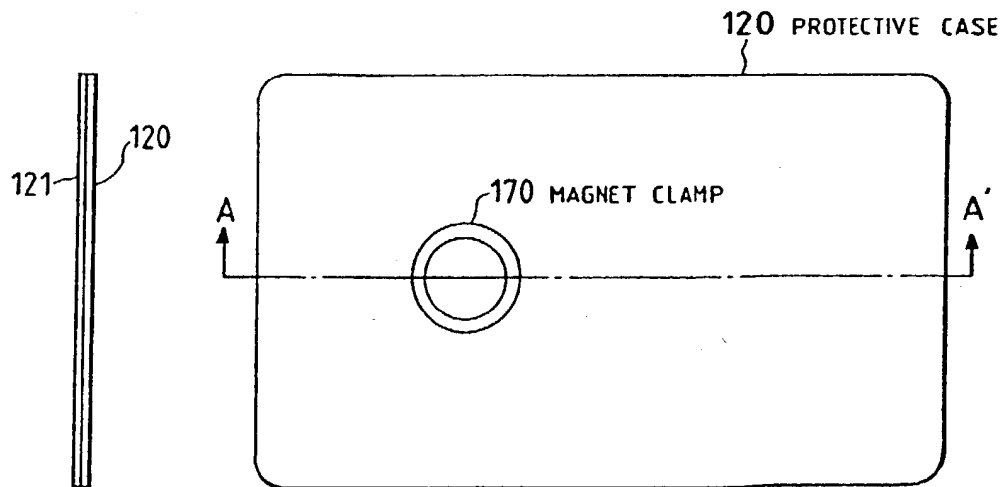


FIG. 19 (c)

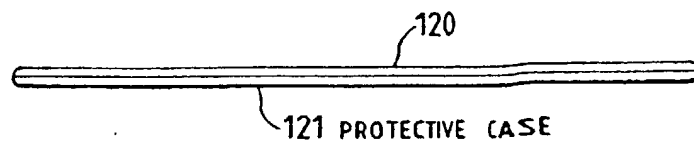


FIG. 20(a)

(CROSS SECTIONAL CONSTITUTION VIEW OF
AA' IN FIG. 25)

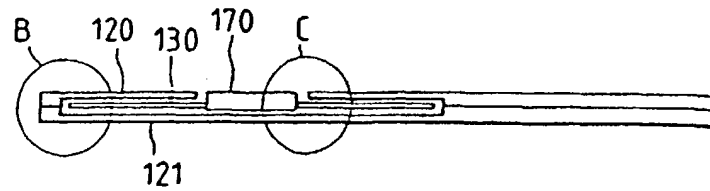


FIG. 20(b)

(ENLARGED VIEW OF
B-PART)

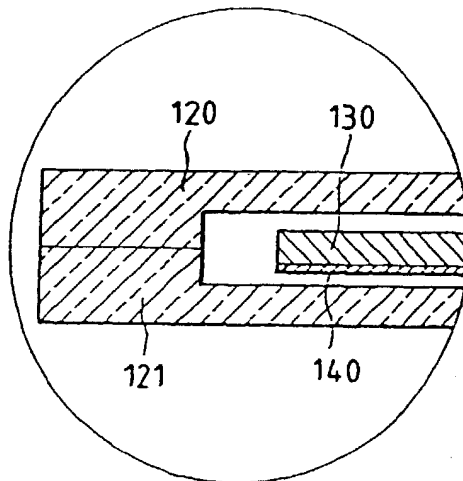


FIG. 20(c)

(ENLARGED VIEW OF
C-PART)

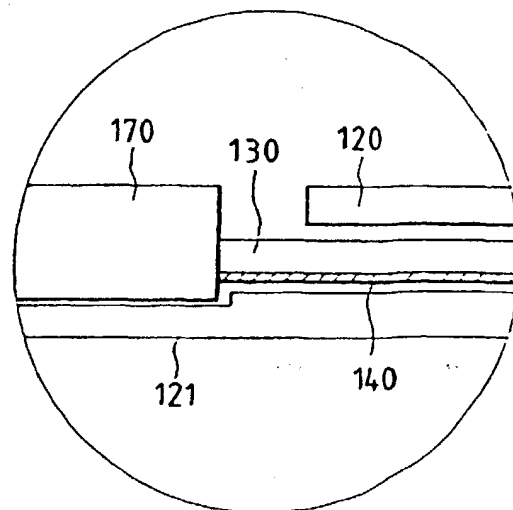


FIG. 21 (a)

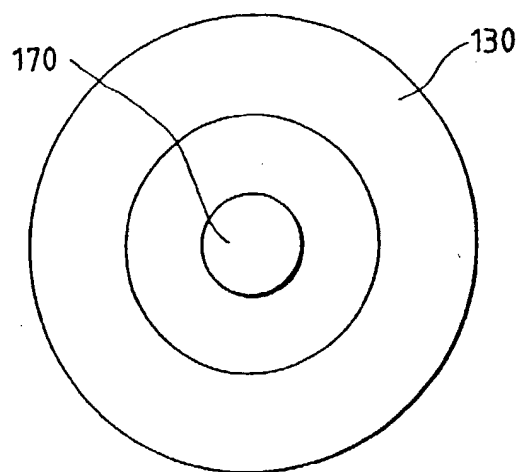


FIG. 21 (b)

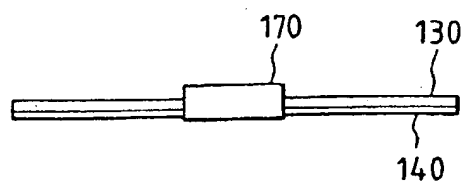


FIG. 22(b)

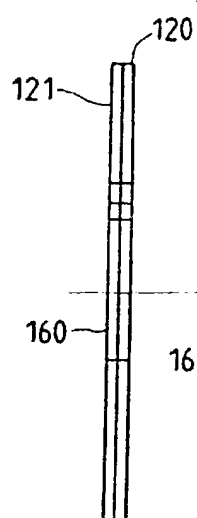


FIG. 22(a)

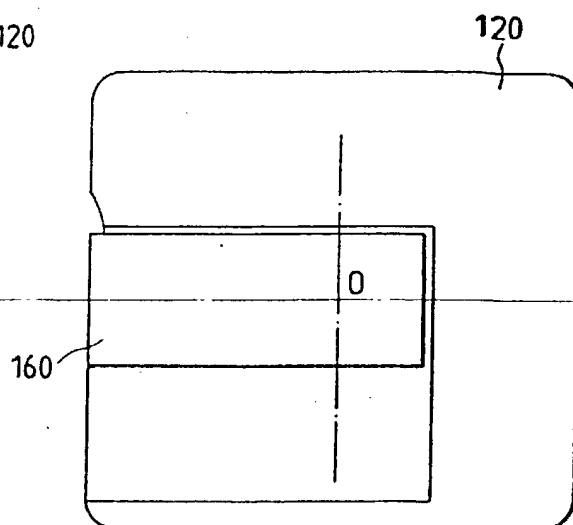


FIG. 22(c)

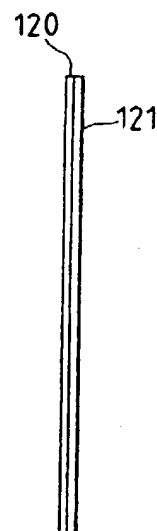


FIG. 22(d)

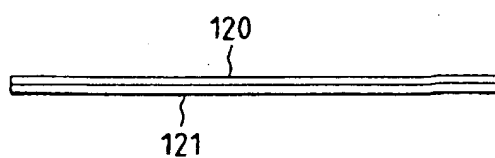


FIG. 23

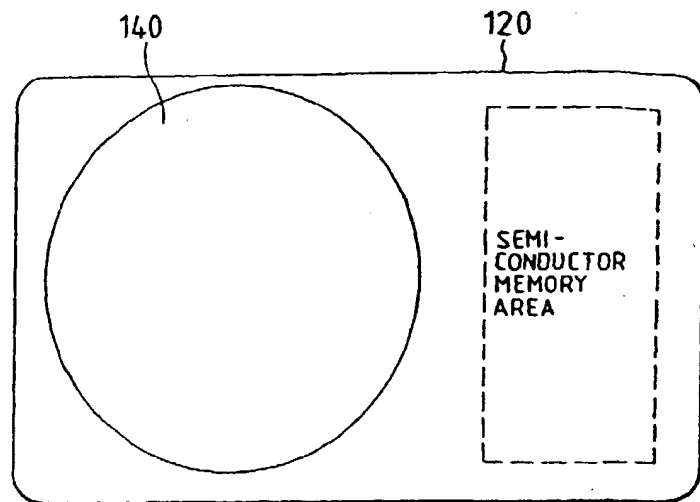


FIG. 24

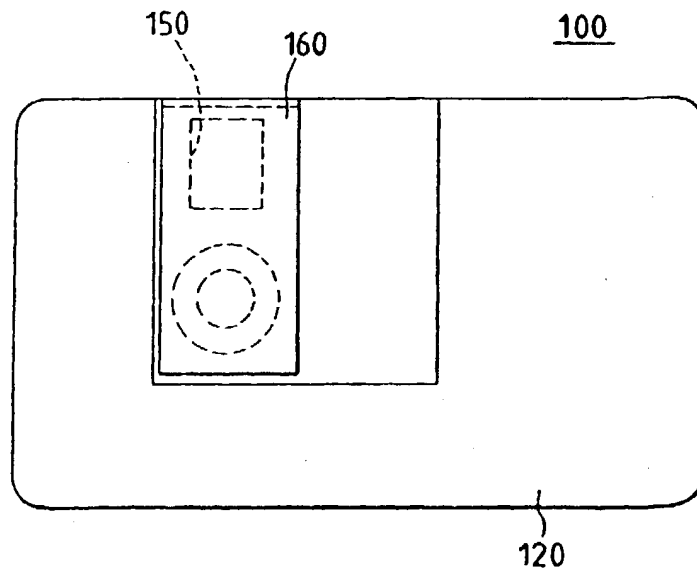


FIG. 25(a)

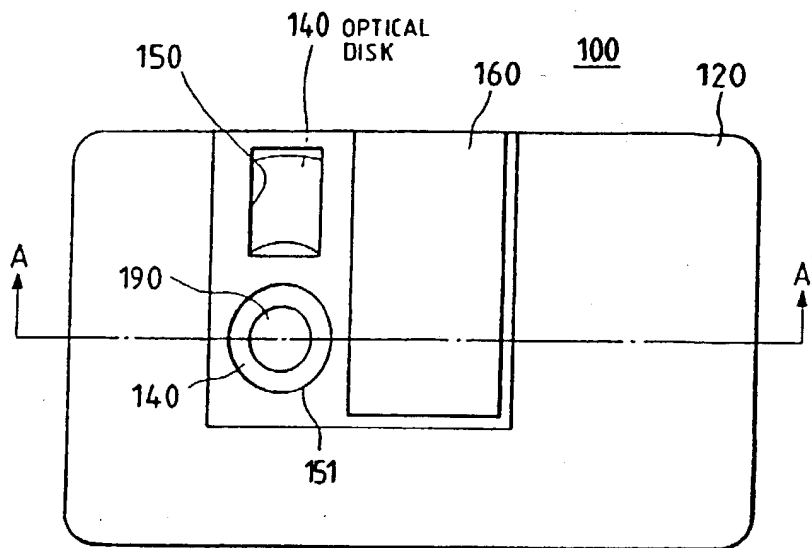
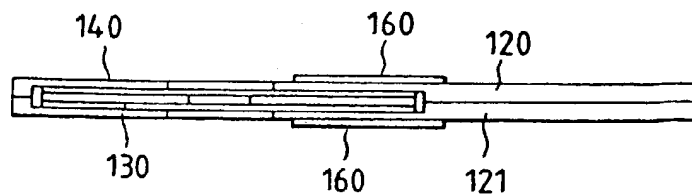


FIG. 25(b)

CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW OF A-A'





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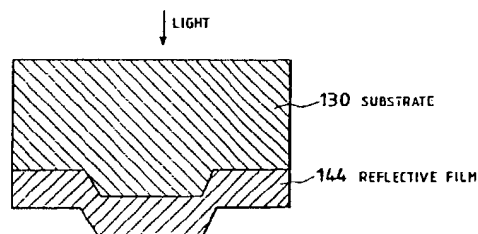
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(54) **Optical ROM type memory disk**

(57) The present invention provides an optical information handling device in which reflectivity of the conventional reproduction-only type is lowered to 60% or less which is equal to the reflectivity of the write-once type and the rewritable type optical disks, whereby the interchangeability of the disk is realized. The information processing device of the invention can be interchangeable with a lower rank information handling device.

Further, the optical disk of the credit size card are also realized.

FIG. 1





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 11 0487

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 229 650 A (BASF AG)	1,3,4,9,12	G11B7/24
Y	---	2	G11B23/03
Y	NL 8 800 733 A (JAN ESSEBAGGERS) * the whole document *	2	
X	EP 0 225 647 A (DAICEL CHEM)	1,3-6,9,12	
A	* page 12, line 10 - page 13, line 3 * * page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 12 * * page 15, line 4 - page 16, line 5; figure 2 *	2	
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 January 1998	Examiner Holubov, C
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Application Number
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